

Amendment to the Abstract of the Disclosure

Please replace the existing Abstract of the Disclosure with the following:

Apparatus for applying a biocide liquid composition to billets formed from sugar cane stalks is disclosed. In one embodiment of the invention, the apparatus is comprised of a container for containing the liquid composition, a conduit in fluid communication with the container, and one or more nozzles in fluid communication with the conduit, the apparatus being sized and configured for connection to a billet-type sugar cane harvester so that the nozzles are disposed to direct the liquid composition onto the billets either before or as they are received by a hopper configured to receive the billets dispensed from the harvester during operation of the harvester. Related improvements to harvesters and methods of inhibiting microbial degradation of sugar cane, are also disclosed.

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